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FLICKERS: RHODE ISLAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL KICKS OFF ITS 17TH SEASON WITH OVER 200 FILMS

Film-Filled Week To Be Hosted at Locations Across The State of Rhode Island

ABSTRACT/CALENDAR LISTING:

On Aug. 6, 2013, Flickers kicks off its 17th annual **Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIIFF)** in Providence, RI. This weeklong celebration of independent cinema and film arts is New England's largest film festival and only Academy Award-qualifying event. Out of more than 7,000 film festivals worldwide, only 75 share this distinction. In addition to film screenings, the festival will feature the return of the RI Film Forum—a region-wide educational workshop focused on bringing film production to the Ocean State and creating a constructive dialogue about the future of the film industry. The Festival will also include award ceremonies, filmmaker symposia, the annual ScriptBiz Screenwriting Workshop, a walking tour of film locations in Providence, and networking events. For more information about the festival, please visit www.RIFilmFest.org.

WHAT: 17th Annual FLICKERS: Rhode Island International Film Festival

WHEN: Aug. 6-11, 2013

WHERE: Providence, Tiverton, Woonsocket, and Jamestown, Rhode Island

WHO: Flickers, Newport Film Society & Arts Collaborative, creator of the Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIIFF)

HOW MUCH: Tickets are \$10 general admission. Prices/tickets for Opening Night and other special events available online. Senior, group and student discounts offered with advance purchase. To order call 401-861-4445 or purchase tickets at the door. Advance tickets online at www.RIFilmFest.org.

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Everything that we had gone through for making Calcutta Taxi seemed worthwhile a hundred times over at the screening last night. I don't know the future of our little short film. But I do know that we couldn't have asked for a better venue for a World Premier. I tightly held Rima's hand sitting in an audience of over 700 people and witnessed what it feels like when an audience 'laughs' at every joke, 'sighs' at every emotional turn and 'reacts' to the film organically that only an intelligent crowd can. Being a new filmmaker, I've never witnessed anything like this before but I re-realized that this idea of telling stories to a crowd must be the reason why we wanted to make films in the first place. I have only you to thank for this amazing experience for letting us share our little film on a platform only you and your wonderful team could have provided us with. Something we will cherish and revisit in our minds for many more years to come.

Best regards and Thank you!
Vik
Vikram Dasgupta, India/Canada
"Calcutta Taxi," 2012

(PROVIDENCE/NEWPORT, RI) — On Aug. 6, 2013, Flickers will kick off its **17th annual Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIIFF)** in Providence, RI. In addition to film screenings, this year's festival will feature the return of the RI Film Forum in collaboration with the RI Film & Television Office and the URI Harrington School of Communication and Media. The Forum will be a region-wide educational workshop geared toward bringing film production to the Ocean State. The Festival will also include award ceremonies, a film location walking tour with the RI Historical Society, master classes on directing and cinematography, a program on Transmedia and media literacy, filmmaker symposia, the annual ScriptBiz Screenwriting Workshop, nightly filmmaker networking events and related world premiere events.

More than 200 feature length, documentary and short films—from 65 countries, and 36 states across the U.S.—will be screened during the six-day Festival at locations throughout the state of Rhode Island. Films have been selected from a record entry base of more than 5,100 submissions. *(While the final schedule of films is still being confirmed at press time, the 2013 Festival is set to exceed last year's count of 54 World, North American, and U.S. Premieres.)*

RIIFF is a magnet for those who have made short films because it is a qualifying event for the short film category of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. In 2012, three films that premiered at RIIFF went on to receive Academy Award nominations: "**ASAD**," directed by Bryan Buckley and produced by Mino Jarjoura (Hungry Man); "**BUZKASHI BOYS**," directed by Sam French and produced by Ariel Nasr (Afghan Film Project); "**HENRY**," directed by Yan England (Yan England).

Since its creation in 1981, Flickers has become a powerful and leading force promoting independent cinema. Founded as the Newport Film Society, its first official film screening took place in January 1983 at the Van Alen Casino Theater in Newport. Flickers evolved to include numerous year-round film-related events and production projects, and expanded its reach to locations throughout the Ocean State. The Flickers: Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIIFF) is now the largest and only Oscar®-qualifying festival in New England through its partnership with the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences. Out of more than 7,000 film festivals worldwide, only 75 share this distinction. RIIFF can boast 29 Academy Award nominations and six wins, making an entry into the Festival an important credential to achieve.

Flickers' mission is to discover the work of exceptional emerging talent while nurturing and enabling relationships among film directors, artists, producers, distributors, backers, and audiences.

One of Flickers' major goals is to recognize artistry and innovation in filmmaking, which it achieves through the Film Festival, an event internationally recognized as an important, credentialed, industry-friendly launch pad. The Providence Business News consistently lists RIIFF as one of the "Top 30 Events in Rhode Island," while Boston Magazine has recognized it as one of the region's "Top 10 Summer Events." In 2012, the Festival welcomed 226 filmmakers and their guests and had 54 World, North American, and United States premieres selected out of 4,717 film submissions. That year, audiences surged to over 31,000 at all Flickers events. The record turnout led to the Bureau of International Information Programs at the U.S. Department of State to select RIIFF as one of the "Top 10 Festivals in the United States" the following year, as part of the department's promotional efforts to spur international tourism.

Year-round programming produced by Flickers includes the KidsEye Summer Filmmaking Camp, the RI International Horror Film Festival, the Roving Eye International Film Festival, the Jamestown

Arts Center "Encore Series," the Annual GLBT Expo Video Lounge at the Javits Center in NYC, the 7DayPSA Competition, Oscar Experience: Providence, the Providence LGBTQ Film Festival and the Flickers: Rhode Island International Film Festival. On Aug. 6, 2013, Flickers will kick off its 17th annual Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIIFF) in Providence, RI.

PLANNED FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- Showcase of Japanese, Francophonie and French films celebrating our Festival partnerships with **ShortShorts Film Festival Asia** (Japan), the **Government of Québec**, and Montreal's **Videozones** and **Unifrance**. To be shown free during the summer at libraries across Rhode Island and special showcases during Festival week;
- The RI Film Forum, scheduled for Thursday, Aug. 8, in collaboration with the **RI Film & Television Office** and the **Harrington School of Communication and Media at URI**;
- New programming focus for the annual ScriptBiz™, a screenwriting workshop, with a spotlight on this year's Grand Prize Screenplay Competition winner, "*Betrayed*," by **Alfred Thomas Catalfo** of New Hampshire. This year's seminar directed by Professor William Torgenson from St. John's University, New York, *previous Grand Prize winner for "Love on the Big Screen"*;
- Expanded **KidsEye™ International Film Festival** programming with three mornings of kid-friendly screenings;
- Special programming and panel discussion focused on veterans' affairs and post-conflict recovery at The Vets in Providence;
- Special guest speaker **Heather Abbott**, Boston Marathon bombing victim from RI;
- Showcase of films and cultural activities from the Province of Québec and the newly created **Flickers: Québec Film Festival** celebrating the 20-year partnership with the **Délégation du Québec, Boston** and **Tourism Québec**;
- Films from over 60 countries across the globe, including: *Norway, South Africa, New Zealand, Australia, China, India, Germany, Italy, Belgium, Ireland, Lithuania, and the United Kingdom*;
- Showcase of new international student graduate thesis films from the **INSAS** (*Institut National Supérieur des Arts du Spectacle et des Techniques de diffusion*), the Graduate School of Arts of the French Community of Belgium, one of Europe's premier film institutes <http://www.insas.be/>;
- RI Film Forum to feature panel with programmers from three Oscar-qualifying festivals: **RIIFF, Tribeca Film Festival**, and **Festival du Nouveau Cinéma**;
- **Providence Film Location Walking Tour** with the RI Historical Society;
- Expanded **Youth Film Jury Screenings and new partnership with RI Foundation Equity Action** to expand LGBTQ youth participation;
- Screenings at: The Vets; RISD Museum; Paff Auditorium; Bell Street Chapel; Providence Public Library; Brown/RISD Hillel; Jewish Alliance; Museum of Work and Culture; Sandywoods Center for the Arts; and Jamestown Arts Center.

THE FILMS SCHEDULED TO PLAY RIIFF 2013:

Opening Night films: *"Sundae"* (directed by Joseph Procopio); *"Ceramic Tango"* (directed by Patricia Chica); *"Drone Strike"* (directed by Chris Richmond); *"Ástarsaga"* (directed by Asa Hjorleifsdottir); *"Dotty"* (directed by Mick Andrews & Brett O'Gorman); *"The Pamplemousse"* (directed by Jonathan Watton); *"Anniversario"* (directed by Jeffrey Dechausse); *"The Parachutist"* (directed by Tom Tagholm); and *"Chef de Meute (Herd Leader)"* by (directed by Chloé Robichaud).

World premieres include: *"Pell Grants: A Passion for Education,"* directed by Steven Feinberg, executive director of the RI Film & Television Office; *"Against the Wild,"* directed by Richard Boddington and starring RI youngster CJ Adams; and *"Torn,"* directed by Jeremiah Birnbaum and starring Faran Tahir (Iron Man, 2008 and Star Trek, 2009)

North American/U.S. Premieres Include: *"Foster"* directed by Jonathan Newman and starring Ioan Gruffudd, Toni Collette, and Hayley Mills, *"Jaurès,"* directed by Marc Saltarelli, and *"Death Metal Angola"* directed by Jeremy Xido.

The films screened at this year's Festival will not be short on name actors and other talent gracing the screen or working behind the camera. These include: Toni Collette; Hayley Mills; Emma Thompson; Michael Clarke Duncan; Octavia Spencer; Zach Galifianakis; Lewis Black; B.J. Novak; Bob Saget; Cate Blanchett; Bill Nighy; James Lafferty; Maxwell Caulfield; Ioan Gruffudd; Natasha Henstridge; CJ Adams; Russel Tovey; Gore Vidal; Anne Parillaud; Alice Cooper; John Isner; Ben Whishaw; S. Epitha Merkerson; Deborah Harry; Henry Rollins; Lee Meriwether; Susan Blakely; Russell Tovey; John Heard; C. Thomas Howell; Marilyn Mason.

For a complete festival guide, visit www.RIFilmFest.org.

RIFF 2013 SPECIAL EVENTS:

- **FLICKERS: RHODE ISLAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL: OPENING NIGHT CELEBRATION & GALA** opens this year's Festival on Tuesday, Aug. 6, at 7:00 p.m. at The Vets. Discover an unforgettably memorable selection of short films from around the world that await audiences at the gala opening night of the 17th Annual RIFF. This year's selection promises to engage, entertain and possibly discover the next Academy Award nominee. As part of its long tradition, Flickers will celebrate the art of the short film, representing an array of genres that salute RIFF's unique status: out of more than 7,000 film festivals world wide, the Rhode Island International Film Festival is one of only 75 qualifying Festivals with the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences—the Oscars. It is the sole Festival in New England with this distinction.

- **PROVIDENCE FILM LOCATION WALKING TOUR** lets you discover why Providence is truly a Hollywood backlot. Learn about the history of the city and find out about some of our state's most notable and colorful characters. The goal of the tour is to provide filmmakers with an insider's view of the downtown and riverwalk area, with an eye toward interesting, unanticipated places for filming. The Providence Location Walking Tour takes place on Wednesday, Aug. 7, at 11:00 a.m. in Downtown Providence. For more information, visit www.RIFilmFest.org.

- **KIDSEYE™ INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL** is Rhode Island's premiere showcase of cinematic work focused on young people involved with KidsEye™. Created by Flickers: Rhode Island International Film Festival, the KidsEye™ Festival has become a popular festival-within-a-festival, featuring guest speakers, discussions, dance parties, concerts, and a youth Open Screen. Those attending KidsEye™ will be able to meet youth video makers, actors and their mentors and see a diverse collection of youth-produced media. From Aug. 8–10, at 10:00 a.m. KidsEye™ screenings will take place Thursday and Friday at the RISD Museum in Providence, and on Saturday Aug. 10, KidsEye™ will take place at The Vets and those who participated in the KidsEye™ Summer Filmmaking Camp will premiere their films and have an opportunity to walk the "red carpet."

FLICKERS: KidsEye™ Summer Filmmaking Camp took place from July 8-12. This is the original five-day filmmaking camp for kids aged 8-16 presented by the Academy Award-qualifying, **FLICKERS: Rhode Island International Film Festival**. Participants shoot several short films and a promotional trailer, attend workshops taught by certified educators and movie industry professionals, and learn about screenwriting, acting for the camera, directing, makeup, camera, costuming, and special effects. The event took place all day from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the University of Rhode Island, Kingston campus.

- **THE RHODE ISLAND FILM FORUM** provides the opportunity to become involved with the stars of the Rhode Island film community on Thursday, Aug. 8, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This one-day forum will bring together leaders from the film industry in collaboration with Rhode Island decision-makers and community leaders. Additionally, discussion panels will cover the changing nature of the industry and the future of film festivals. Held in the majestic Providence Biltmore Ballroom, the discussion will highlight what's new on the technical side of filmmaking and how you can fit in to the film community.

- **ScriptBiz 2013** is designed to guide writers through the processes of writing and promoting their screenplays. Have a great idea for a movie script, but don't know where to begin? Or have you finished your masterpiece but have no clue what to do next? The 17th Annual **Flickers: Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIIFF)** is here to help. Join us on Friday, Aug. 9, (9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) as we host this one-day workshop. ScriptBiz 2013 will cover the nuts and bolts of being a screenwriter in two parts: introductory and advanced. Learn more about the creative process as well as how to effectively network with filmmakers and make a compelling pitch to promote your screenplay. Best of all, this event will be free for this year's filmmakers.

- **FLICKERS: QUEBEC FILM FESTIVAL** is a celebration of the 20-year partnership with the **Délégation du Québec, Boston** and **Tourism Québec**. This festival sidebar, presented by the **Quebec Government**, will feature a diverse and cutting edge collection of films by French speaking filmmakers. The main venues for this series will be the RISD Museum and the Museum of Work and Culture in Woonsocket, RI. This collection of new and dynamic French speaking films will consist of short films, feature films, and documentaries from Quebec, France, Belgium, and Switzerland.

- **FUTURE FILMMAKING: DIGITAL DOCUMENTARY BRIDGING CULTURES** is a provocative forum that will provide the opportunity for networking and for international filmmakers to discuss their latest works. From Internet uploads on YouTube and Vimeo to cell phone capture and satellites, documentary filmmaking has changed the face of modern news gathering and traditional media. Technology has allowed information to flow outside of political gatekeeping, creating a global village that bridges cultures and addresses topics of social and political concern. Hear what filmmakers have to say about the technological future of film in the RISD Metcalf Auditorium on Saturday, Aug. 10, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Advance ticket sales for screenings and special events are available through the RIIFF website (www.RIFilmFest.org). Student, group, and senior discounts are also available but only in advance. To purchase tickets or obtain more information about any aspect of RIIFF, call 401-861-4445; email info@film-festival.org; or write to RIIFF, 83 Park Street, Suite 1, Providence, RI 02903.

Sponsors for the 2013 Festival include: *The Providence Journal Charitable Foundation; ABC6; Visit Baltimore; Eurochannel; Edge Media; CW28; The Rhode Island Foundation; Equity Action; RISD Museum; Unibroue; Rhode Island Film & Television Office; The Rhode Island Council on the Arts (RISCA); The Providence Phoenix; Sony; IMDB.com; Rhode Island PBS; Rule Boston Camera; Délégation du Québec à Boston; Tourism Québec; PMA Industries; Cox Media; Amtrak; The Vets; The Providence Tourism Council; the University of Rhode Island (URI); The Harrington School of Communications at URI; Roger Williams*

University; The RI Film & TV Office; Enterprise; Linchpin Design; Renaissance Providence Hotel; ZipCar; The City of Providence and the Department of Arts, Culture & Tourism; The Providence Warwick Convention and Visitor's Bureau; and The Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce.

ABOUT FLICKERS:

The mission of the 31 year-old **Flickers Arts Collaborative** is to serve as a creative partner in the arts by uniting various media and arts disciplines that nurture the artistic process and support a vital part of our community. This includes multi-disciplinary art presentations; artistic and cultural activities; performance festivals; video and television productions and exhibition; audio recordings and broadcasts; educational outreach programs; and the FLICKERS: Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIIFF).

ABOUT THE RHODE ISLAND INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL:

The **FLICKERS: Rhode Island International Film Festival (RIIFF)**, has secured its place in the global community as the portal for the best in international independent cinema, earning the respect of domestic and foreign filmmakers, filmgoers and trend watchers. This confluence of art and commerce brought together world-class celebrities, award-winning filmmakers, new talent and audience members in record numbers last year. Ranked as one of the top 12 Festivals in the United States, RIIFF is also a qualifying festival for the Short Film Academy Award through its affiliation with the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences. Only 75 film festivals worldwide share this distinction and RIIFF is the sole festival in New England to have this honor. The Festival takes place every August. For more information about the festival, please visit www.rifilmfest.org.

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